San Francisco Bay Area Network

Inventory and Monitoring Program

The San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program tracks the status and trends of the region's natural resources in order to improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge.

Project Highlights – April 2006

Coho Salmon Migrant Trapping Begins – Finally!! - As many of you know, the coho spawner season last year was a banner year for coastal streams in Marin County. During our summer monitoring work we calculated juvenile coho population estimates in Olema Creek, Redwood Creek, and Pine Gulch. In all three watersheds the estimated juvenile coho population increased from the previous year. Now its time to see if these fish survived the big December storms. Right now, crews are installing downstream migrant traps in all three of these watersheds. Trapping has been delayed by several weeks due to frequent rains. Traps will be checked daily by a crew of 2-3 people. The goal of the downstream migrant trapping project is to determine the coho smolt production in each watershed. With this information the National Park Service will know what the survival rate is for coho salmon in these three watersheds. Along with coho smolts, migrant traps also catch lamprey, stickleback, sculpin, and anything else floating downstream. Extra help is always appreciated since these traps are checked daily. If you are interested in helping out just contact project leader Mike Reichmuth.

For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact Mike Reichmuth, Network Fisheries Biologist, (Michael_Reichmuth@nps.gov; 415-464-5191).

Water Quality Training Opportunity - The Inventory and Monitoring Program is sponsoring a training class and workshop on the National Park Service water quality database NPSTORET. NPSTORET is a desktop MS Access database which was developed by the NPS Water Resources Division as a tool to assist NPS units to upload water quality data into the national EPA STORET online data warehouse. In addition to the EPA STORET upload feature, NPSTORET is a capable desktop database with functions for data summarization which include the creation of tabular and graphical reports. NPSTORET can also import data from a variety of file formats (i.e. MSAccess, Excel, ASCII) as well as archived data from EPA STORET and the USGS NWIS database.

The time and place of the training aren't firmly set but the time will be late June and the location will likely be Ft. Mason in San Francisco or Pt. Reyes NS Headquarters in Olema. The class will be taught by Dean Tucker who is the principal developer of NPSTORET.

For more information about the NPSTORET please view the NPS "Vital Signs Water Quality website http://www.nature.nps.gov/water/infoanddata/index.cfm or contact Dale Roberts, Network Data Manager (Dale_Roberts@nps.gov; 415- 663-1408). Also contact him to sign up for the training.

Harbor Seal Pupping Season Delayed - In March and April, biologists at PORE trained over 30 volunteers to monitor harbor seals at PORE and GOGA. Training involved two in-class training days and five field trips to survey locations. Volunteers survey harbor seals and nine locations distributed between the two parks a minimum of one time per week during the breeding and molting seasons (March - July), to document trends in population status, pupping success, and disturbance. In addition, the parks coordinate regional surveys of seal haul out sites from Sonoma to San Mateo Counties, which began March 4. Regional surveys occur every 2 weeks during the breeding and molting seasons. The first pup was documented on March 4, which is within the range of normal pupping phenology. So far the season is proceeding slowly, in part due to inclement weather. Rainfall in central California during March and April was above normal, and there was precipitation on 26 of 31 days in March. Peak pupping normally occurs in late April and early May.

To receive future editions of our highlights, please contact, Marcus_Koenen@nps.gov. For more information about the I & M Program: http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/index.htm.